

From: Thomas Corriher
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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Summary

This letter is to plead with the court that it use its wisdom to insure that the abusive monopoly of Microsoft is punished for its arrogant and reckless disregard for law. The proposed settlement does not place adequate restrictions upon Microsoft to prevent it from future abuses. The settlement actually gives Microsoft legal justification to continue its business as usual. The settlement was not a victory for the Department of Justice, it was a surrender. Microsoft has become a disgrace to our nation. They have associated their unique brand of predatory behavior which is driven by perverse extremes of greed to our entire information technology industry, while manipulating the justice system to comply with its agenda. It has earned itself the nickname, "The Evil Empire". I beg you, do something before it is too late. I am terrified of a future in which all information is controlled and monitored by Microsoft. You have a chance to save the world.

Your Honor;

You bear an enormous burden, for you will make history. I am certain that you have read enough technology arguments in recent times to satisfy you for your lifetime. Your valuable time is already unduly limited.

Making A Mockery of U.S. Law

There are seemingly countless examples of Microsoft's disregard toward the ethics of its own industry, and its brazen contempt toward the laws of the United States. Microsoft altered evidence during the trial in question, and was caught using altered video evidence. As we of

the public have come to expect, Microsoft was unpunished. Microsoft funded two separate organizations which pretended to be independent organizations during its trial. These groups filed briefs to support the company, and attempted to rally public support for Microsoft. These facts were made known only after a suspicious person at the Oracle corporation hired a private investigator to rummage through the trash of those "independent" consumer groups. In further disregard for ethics, Microsoft secretly lobbied to have the funding for the Department of Justice substantially lowered after the trial began. One can only speculate if their motive was to prevent their prosecution, or if it was to enact revenge on our nations core law enforcement agency. During the trial, Microsoft claimed that competition existed, while it financially rescued Corel and used that company as evidence that competition indeed survived in the "free market". Both companies then attempted to suppress Corel's benefactor, as it would appear incriminating; and this was in itself an instance of perjury. Thereafter, Corel immediately discontinued work on Linux since it is a potential operating systems competitor for Microsoft. There have been numerous instances in which agents of Microsoft have written letters to various organizations in support of Microsoft. These letters typically dishonestly attack any thing considered to be a threat to Microsoft. The troubling aspect of this behavior is the letters are written to appear as spontaneous testimonials from independent sources. Microsoft's organized campaign of misinformation is so common that there is a name for it. It is called "astroturf" -- meaning a fake grass roots movement. You should expect to see many astroturf letters, and I have read that some of the state attorney generals have already been receiving correspondence from people who died years ago. Recently during another trial, Microsoft boldly proposed our government replace Apple's software in the schools with donated Microsoft software, thereby extending its monopoly to education as a remedy to abusive monopoly practices. In further insult to our collective intelligence, the plan would require Microsoft to give its software to schools at its inflated market value and use that as a tax write-off. Under Microsoft's proposed "punishment" for itself, the tax payers would be forced to pay Microsoft to create another monopoly for itself among children.

Time Is Running Out

To Microsoft winning is everything, and in its twisted corporate mind-set it means everyone else must lose. The losers include you and me. Their appetite is unquenchable.

The best analogy to Microsoft is to describe it as a cancer. This company has already consumed every other company in the low-end (PC) software market, and is now moving to hijack the free and open Internet with its .Net initiative. Microsoft has even turned its attacks upon free software which is the foundation of all industry standards and the Internet. Even software produced by volunteers is not acceptable to Microsoft, since such software weakens the public's complete dependence on them. Microsoft is in many ways like an illegal drug dealer, because it does everything in its power to kill all competitors while stimulating a complete dependence on its own products. Microsoft is powerful enough to make unquestionable demands against the providers of Internet services, and computer hardware manufacturers. It alone defines the rules and twists standards for desktop computer systems to meet its agenda. Software companies which do not threaten Microsoft's agenda are allowed to live. Microsoft commonly makes its own software function poorly with non-Microsoft software, while adding operating system features to cripple the software of others. To make my case: the mighty IBM is afraid of Microsoft. Everyone is afraid. They are a menace, and they are a significant threat to our liberties.